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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,976	07/11/2003	Takao Murakami	06753.0554	2868
7590 06/29/2004 Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P. 1300 I Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005-3315			EXAMINER GILMAN, ALEXANDER	
			ART UNIT 2833	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

KS

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/616,976	Applicant(s) MURAKAMI ET AL.	
	Examiner Alexander D Gilman	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/11/03; 12/29/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 10, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ichida et al.

With regard to claim 1, Ichida et al (US 5,575,684) disclose a connector comprising:

a connector housing (10) including a chamber defined by a wall and configured to receive a terminal; and
a flexible locking arm (14) having a first portion supported (18) and a second portion (16) supported by the wall and configured to lock with the terminal between the first and second portions.

With regard to claim 2, Ichida et al disclose that the wall includes opposed first and second sidewalls (forming 12) and wherein the first portion is supported by a first sidewall.

With regard to claim 3, Ichida et al disclose the locking arm includes a locking part (20) extending toward a second sidewall and configured to lock with the terminal.

With regard to claim 10, Ichida et al disclose the locking part (20) includes a disengagement part (30) engagable with a disengagement fixture, wherein the wall includes a guide passage for leading the disengagement fixture to the disengagement part, and wherein the disengagement fixture and the disengagement part engage with each other.

With regard to claim 11, Ichida et al disclose connector comprising:

terminals (4) having engagement parts;

a connector housing (10) having chambers configured to insert and receive the terminals from the rears of the chambers; and

projecting flexible locking arms (14) include locking parts (20) configured to lock with the engagement parts of the terminals,

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wherein a single flexible locking arm is positioned to each of the chambers,
wherein the flexible locking arm has a front end (16) supported on a front wall of the connector housing,
wherein the flexible locking arm has a rear end (18) supported on a peripheral wall of the connector housing,
wherein the flexible arm includes a flexible part between the front and rear ends, and the flexible part includes a locking part, wherein the flexible part is flexibly deformable relative to an engagement part of a terminal, and the locking part is lockable with the engagement part of the terminal received in a chamber.

Claims 1, 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatagishi et al

With regard to claim 1, Hatagishi et al (US 5,700,162) disclose a connector comprising:

a connector housing (60) including a chamber defined by a wall and configured to receive a terminal; and
a flexible locking arm (66-68) having a first portion supported (18) and a second portion (16) supported by the wall and configured to lock with the terminal between the first and second portions.

With regard to claim 5, Hatagishi et al disclose that the wall includes opposed sidewalls, and a first top wall (63a) extending between the sidewalls.

wherein the second portion is supported by the first top wall.

With regard to claims 6, 7, Hatagishi et al disclose that the chamber has an opening configured to fit the terminal in the opening, shaped in a plane rectangle.

With regard to claims 8, 9 Hatagishi et al disclose that the locking arm includes a second top wall (63b) configured to cover the opening and the terminal includes a projection (71) covered with the second top wall (63b).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter.

Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the locking part being supported by the wall.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

06/24/2004



**ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**